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***Email updates and news briefs about
Italian events, festivals, celebrations
and happenings in the Land of Enchantment***

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AND THE REST IS HISTORY



ALBUQUERQUE EXHIBITORS INC., proudly Announce

the GRAND OPENING of the Beautiful . . .

New HILAND Theatre
TONIGHT at 7:00 P.M.

2—Complete Shows
 7:00 and 9:30 P. M.
 Special! souvenir tickets for
 either performance on sale
 now at the State or Hiland
 Theatres.
 You will be delighted with
 the beauty and comfort of
 this fine theatre.
 Admission
 All seats 50¢ incl. tax

INAUGURAL PERFORMANCE
 . . . and Continuing
 thru SATURDAY

Starring **JANE POWELL**
ANN SOTHERN
 with CARMEN MIRANDA
 SCOTTY BECKETT
 BARRY SULLIVAN
 LOUIS CALHERN

Nancy Goes to Rio

and **STARTING SUNDAY**

More **laughs!**
WILLIAM HOLDEN
JOAN CALFIELD
BILLY DE WOLFE
MONA FREEMAN
EDWARD ARNOLD
in "Dear Wife"

ALBUQUERQUE THEATRES

ALBUQUERQUE'S FINEST SUBURBAN THEATRE
 HILAND SHOPPING CENTER ★ 4800 EAST CENTRAL

Opportunity knocked in a big way when Italian Festivals of New Mexico (IFNM) searched for a larger venue to celebrate the 10th anniversary of its popular annual flagship event, the NM Italian Film & Culture Festival. A fundraiser for disadvantaged kids, the multi-day festival was bursting at the seams of its traditional theater and event venues, and needed room to accommodate a growing audience. Enter NDI New Mexico with an offer to host the festival in its beautifully renovated Hiland Theater home. And dare we say . . . the rest is history. With NDI New Mexico, the festival found not only an ideal new location and a built-in beneficiary that shared its commitment to the well-being of children, but also the opportunity to bring back a bit of history to Route 66.

The Hiland opened its doors in 1950 and soon became a movie theater landmark along the Mother Road in Albuquerque. It screened its last film in the summer of 1995 and served as a live performance space for Musical Theater Southwest (MTS) until 2004 when MTS moved out and left the Hiland empty for the

next five years.

AND THE REST IS HISTORY

In 2009, the nonprofit NDI New Mexico signed a lease with Bernalillo County and set out to raise the dollars needed to renovate and refurbish the Hiland to use as its Albuquerque base for delivering programs to over 3,500 children locally and nearly 10,000 statewide annually. Their distinctive program uses dance and music to engage and motivate children, helping them develop discipline, a standard of excellence and belief in themselves that carries over into all aspects of their lives. Over the next few years NDI New Mexico took over the entire Hiland Theater block, transforming the old Walgreens and other former retail outlets into dance studios, offices, and a 600-seat performance space with a massive stage floor and state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems.



When IFNM and NDI New Mexico shook hands on their new partnership in the spring of 2016, restoration of the Hiland was complete except for two key elements essential for hosting a film festival— a big screen and projector. IFNM’s Board of Directors rejected rental in favor of a permanent gift to NDI New Mexico of a theater-size retractable screen and a theater-quality projector. “It just made sense from several points of view,” notes IFNM Treasurer, Carl Alongi. “Our gift brought the historic Hiland Theater back to its movie theater roots. It ensured that the Italian Festival films would be professionally projected for optimal audience enjoyment, and that the festival partnership between NDI New Mexico and IFNM could continue for years to come. It also enhanced NDI New Mexico’s revenue-generating options, putting NDI New Mexico in a position to rent the facility for other film festivals and community activities requiring quality projection capabilities.”

AND THE REST IS HISTORY

And a little more digging into the archives of Albuquerque's historic theaters also reveals a sliver of serendipity at play here. As it turns out, the Hiland, like all the Duke City's most celebrated theaters - the Sunshine, the El Rey, and the Kimo - was built by an Italian. It seems only fitting – some might even say *pre-destined* – that Frank Peloso's Hiland Theater would be restored to its motion picture origins with a little help from the state's most prominent Italian organization nearly 70 years later.

Including the screen and projector, IFNM's gift to NDI New Mexico from the 2017 NM Italian Film & Culture Festival totaled more than \$31,000.

A ceremonial check presentation will take place to a full house at the Hiland Theater on Friday, June 23, 2017 at 7:00 PM just before NDI New Mexico's Summer Dance Institute performance, *Fly Me to The Moon*, which features over 150 children learning about the elements of our universe through the joyful discipline of dance.

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THE GIRL CAN COOK!



Michelle Michelotti Martinez – multi-talented proud Italian and passionate food-blogger has been hiding in plain sight right here in New Mexico, giving cooking classes, catering, testing recipes and providing clients and friends with the most heavenly hand-made pasta this side of Paradise.

Her New Year's resolution – spread the vision that food is an experience rooted in love. "Keep as close as you can from field to fork," Michelle writes. "Know your growers and your purveyors; they are such cool people - a blast to talk to. It's all about their love going into the raw product and your love going into the final dish."

Love, after all, makes the world go 'round. That vision, along with delectable recipes and her featured pasta of the week powers Michelle's regular newsletter (request to subscribe at info@eatentions.com).

Michelle's love affair with food began early, in her Nonna's kitchen sampling freshly-made ricotta and watching Nonna's specialty Ricotta Cavatelli magically come together for Sunday dinner. The experience inspired her own recipe for Sweet Potato-Ricotta Cavatelli with White Wine Braised Chicken Sauce (<http://www.eatentions.com/recipe/sweet-potato-ricotta-cavatelli-with-white-wine-braised-chicken-sauce/>). More importantly, it awakened Michelle's inner pasta chef. Years later Michelle would open her own commercial pasta company. And now that handmade, heavenly pasta mentioned above is the jewel of her kitchen, made with the finest imported Italian Caputo flour, fresh organic eggs, and other local ingredients. She makes a dazzling array of shapes, sizes and flavors.

With such ample food knowledge and talent, which culinary institute did Michelle attend? "I'm a self-taught cook," she says. "Although my awesome husband bought me this really cool trip to Italy for a 4-day culinary class where I learned a bunch, drank a lot, and ate even more. It was the best. So I guess I'm a self-taught cook with a 4-day degree in gluttony! Sweet."

Michelle Michelotti Martinez lives in Albuquerque and works in both Albuquerque and Santa Fe. She's a member of the board of Italian Festivals of New Mexico and an active member and friend to the Italian community. To learn more about Michelle, take a tour of her website www.eatentions.com. And keep her in mind when you get a hankerin' for handmade to order pasta bordering on the sublime.

New Mexico is a treasure trove of talented, energetic Italians like Michelle, living and working here. We love telling you about them. Stand by for more news briefs highlighting the people who make Italy in New Mexico. Tell us about others in the treasure trove who ought to be celebrated!

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